I brought "Bride", "Mrs. J. Hendry", "Smokey", "Ross Estey" and "Orange King" with me from Miami in 1952. "Bride" and "Smokey" have died and I did not get any plants from them.

A friend of mine, Ewart Laurence, who became a hibiscus enthusiast after he had seen my plants from Miami, has learnt to bud and to produce seeds very well. He tells me that he has never succeeded in producing(plants) seeds from doubles. He has imported plants from Flotons of Miami. I gave him the introduction.

What is the cure for the dropping off of buds? Is bone meal of any good for hibiscus? I have lapsed in my subscription to the American Hibiscus Society; and have forgotten what the annual subscription is. I did seem to have the idea at one period that subscription to "Tropical Living, homemaker & gardener", included subscription to American Hibiscus Society. I usually have to get a friend in the U.S. to pay subscriptions that heed U.S. currency.

Yours sincerely,
Vivian M.Metivier, F.R.C.S.

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Whatever I said in anger,
Whatever I shouted in spite
I'm sorry I spoke so quickly---
I thought up some Worse ones tonight.

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A BIT OF HISTORY - L. K. Thompson

The history of Hibiscus in Central Florida may go back as far as 75 years. The plant was probably introduced into the West Indies earlier than that by Clipper ships in the China trade or whaling vessels. You will recall that the famous "Mutiny on the Bounty" occurred on a vessel chartered to bring breadfruit and other plants from the South Seas to the English possessions in the West Indies.

Immediately after the Civil War there was an influx of English settlers to the Central East Coast of the St. John's River Valley to establish plantations. Some of these settlers came by way of the West Indies and the plant probably came with them. This is all speculation on my part, but the facts seem to bear it out. An elderly woman who taught school in Malabar about 1890 distinctly remembered hugh plants of several varieties growing along the Indian River. She recalled that these were several varieties, including a double yellow and a single white.

The finer hybrids, however, did not appear until after 1920 and most of these came from the Hawaiian collection of Col. Montgomery in Coconut Grove and from the local hybrids of James E. Hendry of Ft. Myers and George Anderson of Ft. Lauderdale. About this time, Mortimer Soule of St. Petersburg began producing the first hybrids in Central Florida that can be traced. Some of these are still very much with us, such as Bowena Wedding and Honolulu Soule.

It was not until after the founding of the American Hibiscus Society that Hibiscus began their march to popularity in this area. Only 10 years ago the finer varieties were almost unknown except by a few collectors. The annual American Hibiscus Society Chapter shows with their large crowds of viewers really started things going. At every show you can see many people writing down the names of varieties with particular appeal for future acquisition.

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She was only a Moonshiner's Daughter
But with all her faults
He loved her still.